

Alternative Use of Resources

This action, for which there are no appropriate alternatives, does not involve the use of, and therefore will not affect, available resources.

Agencies and Persons Consulted

In accordance with its stated policy, on October 28 and November 3, 1998, the staff consulted with the Washington State official, Deborah J. Ross of the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council, regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The State official had no comments.

Finding of No Significant Impact

On the basis of the environmental assessment, the Commission concludes that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed action.

For further details with respect to the proposed action, see the licensee's request for termination of Construction Permit No. CPPR-154, dated August 8, 1996, additional information submitted by letter dated June 15, 1998, WPPSS's "Satsop Power Plant Scope of Restoration" transmitted by letter dated November 5, 1998, and the NRC staff's inspection report dated November 2, 1998. These documents regarding the NRC staff's environmental assessment of the proposed action are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, The Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 4th day of January 1999.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Seymour H. Weiss,

*Director, Non-Power Reactors and
Decommissioning Project Directorate,
Division of Reactor Program Management,
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.*

[FR Doc. 99-507 Filed 1-8-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 35-26964]

Filings Under the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935, as Amended ("Act")

January 5, 1999.

Notice is hereby given that the following filing(s) has/have been made with the Commission pursuant to provisions of the Act and rules promulgated under the Act. All

interested persons are referred to the application(s) and/or declaration(s) for complete statements of the proposed transaction(s) summarized below. The application(s) and/or declaration(s) and any amendments is/are available for public inspection through the Commission's Office of Public Reference.

Interested persons wishing to comment or request a hearing on the application(s) and/or declaration(s) should submit their views in writing by January 26, 1999, to the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, Washington, DC 20549, and serve a copy on the relevant applicant(s) and/or declarant(s) at the address(es) specified below. Proof of service (by affidavit or, in case of an attorney at law, by certificate) should be filed with the request. Any request for hearing should identify specifically the issues of fact or law that are disputed. A person who so requests will be notified of any hearing, if ordered, and will receive a copy of any notice or order issued in the matter. After January 26, 1999, the application(s) and/or declaration(s), as filed or as amended, may be granted and/or permitted to become effective.

New England Electric System (70-9417)

New England Electric System ("NEES"), 25 Research Drive, Westborough, Massachusetts 01582, a registered holding company, has filed an application under sections 9(a) and 10 of the Act and rule 54 under the Act.

NEES proposes to form one or more new special purpose subsidiaries to acquire interests in office and warehouse space ("Real Estate Interests") that would be leased only to associate companies for their business purposes. All leases of Real Estate Interests will comply with rules 87, 90 and 91 under the Act.

NEES currently contemplates indirectly acquiring two facilities ("Facilities"), currently leased under long-term lease agreements ("Agreements") to two NEES subsidiaries, from John Hancock Life Insurance Company ("Owner"). The first Facility, consisting of office and warehouse space and adjacent real estate, is under lease to Massachusetts Electric Company ("MEC"), an electric utility subsidiary company of NEES. The second Facility, consisting of an office complex that serves as NEES' headquarters and adjacent real estate, is under lease to New England Power Service Company ("Service Company"), a service company subsidiary of NEES. After its acquisition from the Owner, each Facility will be leased back to MEC or the Service Company, as the case may

be, for the remainder of the term provided for in the Agreement for that Facility and under the same terms and conditions.

For the Commission by the Division of Investment Management, under delegated authority.

Margaret H. McFarland,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99-472 Filed 1-8-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010-01-M

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection Requests

In compliance with Public Law 104-13, the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, SSA is providing notice of its information collection package(s) that will require submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Following is an information collection package for which we are seeking an extension of the OMB approval:

Annual Registration Statement Identifying Separated Participants with Deferred Benefits, Schedule SSA—0960-0556. Schedule SSA is a form filed annually with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) by pension plan administrators as part of a series of pension plan documents required by Section 6057 of the IRS Code. IRS forwards Schedule SSA to the Social Security Administration, which maintains it until a claim for social security benefits has been approved. At that time, SSA notifies the beneficiary of his/her potential eligibility for private plan benefits.

Number of Respondents: 107,174.

Frequency of Response: 1.

Average Burden Per Response: 17 minutes.

Estimated Annual Burden: 30,366 hours.

Written comments and recommendations regarding the information collection(s) should be sent within 60 days from the date of this publication, directly to the SSA Reports Clearance Officer at the following address: Social Security Administration, DCFAM, Attn: Frederick W. Brickenkamp, 6401 Security Blvd., 1-A-21 Operations Bldg., Baltimore, MD 21235.

In addition to your comments on the accuracy of the agency's burden estimate, we are soliciting comments on the need for the information; its practical utility; ways to enhance its quality, utility and clarity; and on ways to minimize burden on respondents, including the use of automated

collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

To receive a copy of any of the forms listed above, call the SSA Reports Clearance Officer on (410) 965-4145 or write to him at the above address.

Dated: January 1, 1999.

Frederick W. Brickenkamp,

Reports Clearance Officer, Social Security Administration.

[FR Doc. 99-521 Filed 1-8-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-29-U

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Coast Guard

[USCG-1998-4448]

Mariner Licensing and Documentation

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DOT.

ACTION: Extension of comment period.

SUMMARY: The Coast Guard's National Maritime Center (NMC) is extending the comment period on the issue of Mariner Licensing and Documentation. The original public notice, published September 21, 1998, requested comments on the feasibility of privatizing examinations for mariner licenses and merchant mariner documents in the Coast Guard's Mariner Licensing and Documentation (MLD) program. We are extending the comment period to allow the public more opportunity to comment on this subject.

DATES: Comments must reach the Docket Management Facility on or before March 1, 1999.

ADDRESSES: You may mail comments to the Docket Management Facility (USCG-1998-4448), U.S. Department of Transportation, room PL-401, 400 Seventh Street SW., Washington, DC 20590-0001, or deliver them to room PL-401, located on the Plaza Level of the Nassif Building at the same address between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The telephone number is 202-366-9329.

The Docket Management Facility maintains the public docket for this notice. Comments will become part of this docket and will be available for inspection or copying at room PL-401, located on the Plaza Level of the Nassif Building at the same address between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. You may also access this docket on the Internet at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For questions on this notice, contact Mr. Albert G. Kirchner, Jr., National Maritime Center, U.S. Coast Guard, 4200

Wilson Boulevard, Suite 510, Arlington, VA 22203-1804, telephone 703-235-1950. For questions on viewing or submitting material to the docket, contact Dorothy Walker, Chief, Dockets, Department of Transportation, telephone 202-366-9329.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Request for Comments

The Coast Guard received several requests to extend the comment period at the public meeting held in New Orleans in order to allow the public and the testing industry more opportunity to examine the issues. The Coast Guard encourages you to participate in this request by submitting written data, views, or arguments. If you submit comments, you should include your name and address, identify this notice (USCG-1998-4448) and the specific section or question in this document to which your comments apply, and give the reason for each comment. Please submit all comments and attachments in an unbound format, no larger than 8½ by 11 inches, suitable for copying and electronic filing to the DOT Docket Management Facility at the address under **ADDRESSES**. If you want acknowledgment of receipt of your comments, you should enclose a stamped, self-addressed postcard or envelope.

The Coast Guard will consider all comments received during the comment period.

Although the Coast Guard has not scheduled another public meeting concerning this subject, you may request another public meeting by submitting a request to the address under **ADDRESSES**. The request should include the reasons why another meeting would be beneficial. If we determine that another public meeting should be held, we will hold the meeting at a time and place announced by a later notice in the **Federal Register**.

Background and Purpose

In November 1993, we produced a focus group report, "Licensing 2000 and Beyond." This report recommended adopting new methods of verifying the competency of mariners in our Mariner Licensing and Documentation (MLD) program. The report also recommended that we consider employing commercial service providers that specialize in examination administration and testing using advanced technology. A copy of this report is available for inspection in the docket at the address listed under **ADDRESSES**.

As a result of this focus group report, we published a final rule (61 FR 47060) on September 6, 1996, enabling us to

implement alternative examination and evaluation systems, and to modernize our examination methods. As part of our considerations about developing any alternative examination and evaluation system, we held a public meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana, on October 22 and 23, 1998 which was announced in the **Federal Register** on September 21, 1998 (63 FR 50439). The goal of this public meeting was to help us research business issues and opportunities associated with employing commercial service providers to administer our MLD examinations (outsourcing). A summary of these issues is available in the docket at the address listed under **ADDRESSES**. The issues discussed at the public meeting are as follows:

1. Feasibility of MLD outsourcing;
2. Service possibilities and cost implications to the mariner;
3. System integrity and privacy of records;
4. Elements and sequencing considerations of MLD outsourcing;
5. Options and arrangements for outsourced service delivery;
6. Resource and oversight requirements;
7. Experience of other agencies and professional organizations; and
8. Valuable lessons of others.

Definitions

The following definitions should help you review this notice and provide comments.

Fourth Party means someone, other than the Coast Guard or designated Third Party, who administers an examination or makes an objective judgement about the competency of mariners.

Outsourcing means using the private sector to deliver certain services or functions for the government, with some degree of government involvement.

Privatization means a complete transfer of a government service or function to the private sector without further involvement of the government.

Third Party means someone, other than the Coast Guard, who trains or teaches mariners.

Since the publication of the original notice requesting comments on using commercial service providers to administer MLD examinations, the direction of this type of examination process has evolved. The process we now envision is more accurately termed "outsourcing." The original MLD notice and the supporting documents located in the docket use the term "privatization." Since we plan maintaining the examination database and developing and implementing an oversight mechanism to ensure the